19. Critically analyse the theme of constancy in Sonnet 116 and Show how Shakespeare challenges Petrarchan ideals of beauty in Sonnet 130.

20. Assess A.C.Bradley's critical approach to Shakespeare's characters.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

FEN52/CEN52 — SHAKESPEARE

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

1. Who are Lear's three daughters?

2. What mistake does Lear make in Act I?

3. Who are the "mechanicals" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

4. What metaphor does Sonnet 116 use to describe love?

5. Why does Helena follow Demetrius?

6. What is the central theme of Sonnet 116?

7. How does Shakespeare describe the mistress in Sonnet 130?

8. What tone does Shakespeare adopt in Sonnet 130?

9. According to A.C. Bradley, what distinguishes Shakespeare's tragic heroes?

10. What is the "Round Table" criticism known for?

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

11. (a) Discuss the significance of the storm scene in *King Lear*.

Or

(b) Analyse the theme of filial ingratitude in *King Lear*.

12. (a) Compare and contrast Goneril and Regan.

Or

(b) Discuss the importance of the storm scene to Lear's psychological transformation.

13. (a) Explain the comic elements in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Or

(b) How does Puck influence the events of *A Midsummer Night 's Dream*?

14. (a) Compare Shakespeare's treatment of true love in Sonnets 116 and 130

Or

(b) "Love is not love / which alters when it alteration finds." — Examine the theme of constancy in Sonnet 116

15. (a) Evaluate the strengths and limitations of Bradley's Shakespearean criticism.

Or

(b) Explain Bradley's observation on the moral order in Shakespeare's tragedies.

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SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. *King Lear* is a tragedy of justice and suffering. Discuss with reference to the play.

17. Critically analyse the theme of redemption and reconciliation in *King Lear*.

18. Examine *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as a play that blends reality and illusion.